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Furthermore, emitter 104 and detector 106 further serve to detect the location and positioning of articles 16 as they are delivered via drive wheel 72 (and associated servo motor). All such control is choreographed utilizing controller 18 as well as a feedback signal from detector 106.

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits this Preliminary Amendment for the purpose of correcting minor typographical errors in the specification. Additionally, a Letter Submitting Formal Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith under separate cover to correct minor inconsistencies in Figure 1 of the drawings.

### Corrected Drawing

Applicant has submitted an amendment to Figure 1 to correct minor inconsistencies between the figures. Support for such amendment is found in Figures 2-4; at page 7, lines 2-4; and at page 19, lines 12-18, of the originally filed application.

A substitute sheet containing Figure 1 has been submitted concurrently herewith by separate paper entitled "Letter Submitting Formal Drawings". A courtesy copy of such Letter Submitting Formal Drawings, with both a red-lined and corrected version of Figure 1 is attached hereto. Indication of the acceptability of such drawing is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 08/07/01

By: 

Keith D. Grzelak  
Reg. No. 37,144



Application Serial No. .... 09/686,714  
Filing Date ..... October 10, 2000  
Inventor ..... Jere F. Irwin  
Assignee ..... None  
Group Art Unit ..... 3724  
Examiner ..... Not yet known  
Attorney's Docket No. .... IR3-012  
Title: **"Apparatus and Method for Conveying, Guiding and Locating a Thermoformable Web"**

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Specification

The replacement specification paragraphs incorporate the following amendments. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

The paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 19 has been amended as follows:

Primary guide member 82 and secondary guide member 84 each include an attachment plate 92 94 having a quick release adjustment collar 92 which includes a threaded, rotatable lock arm that enables clamping and unclamping of adjustment collar 92 along a central one of tire rods 90. In this manner, primary guide member 82 and secondary guide member 84 can be quickly and easily laterally adjusted in position relative to web guide plate 100 so as to accommodate changes to different die configurations.

The paragraph beginning at line 19 on page 19 has been amended as follows:

Secondary guide member 84 further comprises a clamp bar 96 carried by attachment plate 94 and further supporting a guide strip 198. Guide strip 198 is constructed so as to provide a substantially greater amount of clearance between guide strip 198 and web guide 100 than is provided between guide strip 98 and web guide plate 100. Accordingly, guide strip 198 is spaced apart from plate 100 at least 3.5 thicknesses of a web which is to be received and processed therethrough. Preferably, web guide plate 100 is provided within a range of 3.5 to 10 thicknesses (or more) of a web of material. In this manner, delivery of a web and articles there along is principally guided by guide strip 98, and little or ~~not~~ no contact occurs between guide strip 198 and such web during a processing operation.

The paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 21 has been amended as follows:

As shown in Figure 3, guide strip 98 serves principally to guide web 16 and articles 14 against plate 100. In contrast, guide strip 198 is spaced a significant distance away from plate 100, and principally serves to support detector 106. However, guide strip 198 also serves to grossly retain web 14 into position along plate 100 in the event that web 16 becomes suddenly significantly misaligned. Accordingly, under normal operating conditions, guide strip ~~198~~ 98 serves as the only principal guide for retaining web 16 in close proximity against web guide plate 100. Accordingly, frictional forces therebetween are significantly reduced. Furthermore, emitter 104 and detector 106 further serve to detect the location and positioning of articles 16 as they are delivered via drive wheel 72 (and associated servo motor). All such control is choreographed utilizing controller 18 as well as a feedback signal from detector 106.

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